IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MCALLEN DIVISION

United States District Court Southern District of Texas FILED

SEP 1 8 2006

Michael N. Milby Clerk

NATALIA RAMIREZ, INDIVIDUALLY AND *ଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊଊ* AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF CARLOS O. RODRIGUEZ, AND AS NEXT FRIEND OF JULIAN RODRIGUEZ. ARIAL RODRIGUEZ, CAIN RODRIGUEZ, AND JACOB RODRIGUEZ, MINOR CHILDREN: MARIA SANCHEZ RODRIGUEZ: AND ABUNDIO RODRIGUEZ SAUCEDA

PLAINTIFFS,

V

CONTRACT FREIGHTERS, INC. AND BERDINE MITCHELL,

DEFENDANTS.

CIVIL ACTION NO. M-05-374

6/15/04,8/21/06 and the FINAL JUDGMENT

the 15th day of September, 2006, the Court heard the above-referenced matter. The parties appeared in person and by and through their respective attorneys of record, and announced to the Court that a full and final compromise and settlement of all matters and controversies between them had been reached. The parties presented to the Court a Settlement Agreement and Release and a Qualified Assignment Agreement. The Court heard the parties' evidence and considered the report of the Guardian Ad Litem previously appointed to represent Julian Oliver Rodriguez, Ariel Valerie Rodriguez, Cain Oliver Rodriguez and Jacob Nathan Rodriguez, Minor Children. Upon consideration of the pleadings, the evidence, the Settlement Agreement and

Release, and the Qualified Assignment Agreement, the Court nereby makes the following findings and conclusions:

- A. NATALIA RAMIREZ has brought this action on her own behalf, on behalf of the Estate of Carlos O. Rodriguez, as next friend of Julian Oliver Rodriguez, Ariel Valerie Rodriguez, Cain Oliver Rodriguez and Jacob Nathan Rodriguez, Minor Children. NATALIA RAMIREZ is the surviving parent of Julian Oliver Rodriguez, Ariel Valerie Rodriguez, Cain Oliver Rodriguez and Jacob Nathan Rodriguez, Minor Children.
- B. MARIA SANCHEZ DE RODRIGUEZ has brought this action as the surviving mother of Carlos O. Rodriguez, Deceased.
- C. ABUNDIO RODRIGUEZ SAUCEDA has brought this action as the surviving father of Carlos O. Rodriguez, Deceased.
- D. NATALIA RAMIREZ AND LUIS CARDENAS, the Guardian Ad Litem, have fully informed themselves of the circumstances of this litigation, the needs and expectations of the minor children, and the effects of entering into the settlement agreement and release.
- E. NATALIA RAMIREZ, as parent of JULIAN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ, ARIEL VALERIE RODRIGUEZ, CAIN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ and JACOB NATHAN RODRIGUEZ, Minor Children, upon the advice of their counsel and with the concurrence of the Guardian Ad Litem, affirmatively asserts that entering into this Settlement Agreement and Release is in the best interests of the minor children.
- F. After reading the pleadings in this case and hearing testimony on the necessary issues, the Court finds that this is a case in which there is a dispute as to liability and the extent of damages, if any, to which the Plaintiffs are entitled. The Court further finds that the entire Settlement Agreement and Release is fair and equitable to the Plaintiffs, and in the best interest of the minor children, JULIAN OLIVER

RODRIGUEZ, ARIEL VALERIE RODRIGUEZ, CAIN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ and JACOB NATHAN RODRIGUEZ. The Court further finds it is in the best interests of the Plaintiffs and minor children that the settlement funds are to be paid as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Release. The Court further finds that the allocation of proceeds to the minor children, JULIAN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ, ARIEL VALERIE RODRIGUEZ, CAIN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ and JACOB NATHAN RODRIGUEZ, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Release is fair and equitable and based on the applicable facts of this case and the appropriate law.

- W
- G. The Court further finds that court costs shall be paid by the party incurring the costs.
- H. Because all matters in dispute between Plaintiffs and Defendants have been fully and finally compromised, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that the entire Settlement Agreement and Release is approved. It is further ORDERED that:
- 1. LUIS CARDENAS, Guardian Ad Litem, is hereby awarded a fee of \$\frac{2\lambda 28}{}\$ which shall be taxed as costs against Defendants; and
 - 2. All taxable court costs are to be paid by the party incurring the cost.

The Court further finds that because all matters in controversy have been determined and settled, the services of the Guardian Ad Litem are no longer required and the appointed Guardian Ad Litem has duly and faithfully performed his duties and responsibilities in this cause.

It is further ORDERED that the Guardian Ad Litem, LUIS CARDENAS, is hereby discharged and released by the Court from his appointment as Guardian Ad Litem for as to the the registry of the court for the Use and benefit at the minor children upon

or children upon

interest beauto JULIAN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ, ARIEL VALERIE RODRIGUEZ, CAIN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ and JACOB NATHAN RODRIGUEZ, Minor Children.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that any relief prayed for and/or which could have been sued for in this action arisen from said occurrence, and not specifically granted herein, is hereby expressly refused and denied.

Upon redemption of this Order, all payments referred to above have been fully paid, and all claims and causes of action of Plaintiffs, including all claims on behalf of JULIAN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ. ARIEL VALERIE RODRIGUEZ, CAIN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ and JACOB NATHAN RODRIGUEZ, Minor Children, are hereby DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE.

SIGNED and ENTERED this 18th day of September, 2006 at m & Men, The

RICARDO H. HINOJOSA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPROVED AND AGREED:

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APPOINTED AD LITEM FOR JULIAN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ, ARIEL VALERIE RODRIGUEZ, CAIN OLIVER RODRIGUEZ AND JACOB NATHAN RODRIGUEZ, MINOR CHILDREN LARRY D. WARREN Federal I.D. No. 13994 Texas Bar No. 20888450 BALL & WEED, P.C. Trinity Plaza II, Suite 500 745 East Mulberry San Antonio, Texas 78212 (210) 731-6300 (210) 785-2950 (Fax)

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